

ER 9-4693/8

SECRET

25

DOCUMENT NO. _____
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. C
 X DECLASSIFIED
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
 AUTH: HR 70-2
 DATE: 17/1/81 REVIEWER:

25X1

The Honorable Donald Quarles
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your memorandum of 20 June 1957, transmitting the letter to you from Mr. V. A. Nekrassoff.

Information concerning the timing of the launching of the Soviet's first earth satellite is sketchy, and our people here do not believe that the evidence is sufficient as yet for a probability statement on when the Soviets may launch their first satellite.

However, data has been recently received that

25

Other information, not so precise, indicates that the USSR probably is capable of launching a satellite in 1957, and may be making preparations to do so on IGY World Days or Special World Days. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

Mr. Nekrassoff's postulation of 17 September 1957, presents an interesting consideration when we note that the public releases on Vanguard project set the first launching of the U. S. satellite in 1958, and the date 17 September 1957, would permit the Russians to attain the objective of a first launching. Further, the Russians like to be dramatic and could well choose the birthday of Tsiolkovsky to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. On the other hand, an IGY World Day has been established in September 1957.

Sincerely,

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
 Director

2/ECI/ :Kp
 3 July 1957
 Distribution:

Orig & 1-Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - DDCI

1 - DB/I

1 - AD/BI

1 - JMC Chrono

X - ER via Reading

Approved For Release 2003/10/07 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000300160018-7

SECRET

X1

27 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on Letter of Mr. V. A. Nekrassoff

1. This memorandum is for information only.

25X1

2. Information concerning the timing of launching of the Soviet first earth satellite is very sketchy. Data have been recently received

[redacted]
[redacted] Other information, not so precise, indicates that the USSR probably is capable of launching a satellite in 1957 and may be making preparations to do so on IGY World Days or Special World Days.

25X1

3. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

4. Regarding Mr. Nekrassoff's postulation, the seventeenth of September 1957 fits the above statements and assessments very well for the following reasons:

a. The date falls within the next few months.

b. Public releases on the VANGUARD project launching its first satellite in 1958, if believed by the USSR, would not challenge their being first to do the job.

c. The Russians like to be dramatic and could well choose the birthday of Tsiolkovsky to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one hundredth anniversary of his birth.

5. In opposition to the event occurring on 17 September 1957, this date is not an IGY World Day, and no day in September is so designated. Special World Days are as yet undesignated.

6. OSI does not believe the evidence to be sufficient as yet for a probability statement on when the Soviets may launch their first satellite.

[redacted]
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

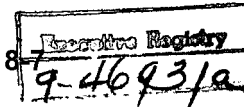
ILLEGIBLE

Enclosure:

ltr to Nekrassoff from Quarles
w/ltr to Quarles from Nekrassoff

cc: DDCI
DDA/T
AD/CI

SECRET

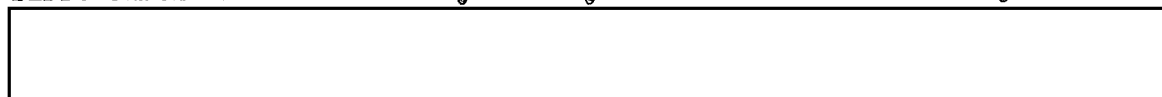


27 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on Letter of Mr. V. A. Nekrassoff

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Information concerning the timing of launching of the Soviet first earth satellite is very sketchy. Data have been recently received



that the USSR probably is capable of launching a satellite in 1957 and may be making preparations to do so on IGY World Days or Special World Days.

3. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

4. Regarding Mr. Nekrassoff's postulation, the seventeenth of September 1957 fits the above statements and assessments very well for the following reasons:

a. The date falls within the next few months.

b. Public releases on the VANGUARD project launching its first satellite in 1958, if believed by the USSR, would not challenge their being first to do the job.

c. The Russians like to be dramatic and could well choose the birthday of Tsiolkovsky to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one hundredth anniversary of his birth.

5. ~~In opposition to the event occurring on 17 September 1957, this date is not an IGY World Day, and no day in September is so designated. Special World Days are as yet undesignated.~~

6. OSI does not believe the evidence to be sufficient as yet for a probability statement on when the Soviets may launch their first satellite.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure:

Ltr to Nekrassoff from Quarles
w/ltr to Quarles from Nekrassoff

cc: DDCI
DD/I
AD/CI

DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. []
[] DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 9 (C) 2010
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
DATE: 17/2/61 REVIEWER: _____

MEMORANDUM

Executive Registry

9-4693

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

6/20/57

MR. DULLES:

A letter from a long-time acquaintance of mine (a former colonel in the Czar's army and a U.S. resident for many years). May have some information of interest.

D. A. Q.

C 61020



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 20, 1957

Dear Mr. Nekrassoff:

I appreciated your letter which just arrived and the enclosure dealing with early Russian earth satellite technology. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

I was also interested in the progress you report on your book. I certainly wish you every success in it.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

DONALD A. QUARLES

Mr. V. A. Nekrassoff



cc: Mr. Allen Dulles (CIA) ←

Document No. _____
Review of this document by CIA has determined that
☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ it contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS S B
Authority: HR 70-2
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
Date 17/2/81 Reviewer 25X

V. A. NEKRASSOFF .

Dear Mr. Quarles,

The only motive justifying my letter is this: I am positive that you know not one apparently insignificant detail concerning the present universal commotion in the building and flying of the "satellites". I do not mean any technical or scientific detail, of course.

I would like to call your attention to the following fact: the true originator of the theory and practice of satellites was a Russian teacher in arithmetic and geometry in the provincial town of Kaluga, K. E. Tzi-olkovsky, who started all this satellite-business in 1895 and 1903, long before the frenchman E. Petelin (1916), american R. Goddard (1919) and German H. Worth (1923).

- 2 -

The present remarkable developments of missiles and satellites possibilities in the USSR is entirely ascribed to the works of Tziolkovsky (died in 1935), who left an active and highly successful school of his numerous associates, assistants and students. And the September 17th of this year will be celebrated in the USSR with particular triumphs and world wide publicity as the centenary of Tziolkovsky's birth. This is why I expect, that the soviet satellites will start their interpretatory ramblings at or around this date!

Particularly important is the fact of a complete soviet silence on this subject! That a single word mentioning Tziolkovsky's jubilee of 1957 cannot be found in the Soviet press of the last years! It is obvious (for the "Russian mode of thinking!"), that the only reminding of this jubilee we will have in the first triumphant soviet salutations addressed to the first soviet satellites at the beginning of their

- 3 -

first cosmic voyages! — The date of this event will be not far from the September 17th 1957.

My humble contention is, that the American satellites have no right to postpone their start until the spring of the 1958, as this was officially announced recently in the American press.

I am taking ^{the} liberty to submit to your attention a short excerpt (marked "20") from one of my articles - "Russian priorities and Superiorities in Scientific achievements". Here you have a short outline of Tziolkovsky's Biography. The whole article gives a description of 22 inevitable, firmly established cases of the real Russian "priorities" instead of hundreds (about 400!) of priorities so profusely and ridiculously proclaimed by the communistic press during almost 20 years (1930-1949).

Please, be generous and goodnaturedly understand my uncontrollable pertinacity in talking about my writings: during the last 2 years I am entirely engrossed in rewriting, recurtailing or re-elongating all articles of my prospective book!

And more than that - I am

4

prowl among publishers, who are crazy enough in their demandings advance payments from me! I have not a single dollar more than my monthly pension and annuity of \$160⁰⁰ p. month.

The main trouble within me is caused by that highly complimentary letter written to me by Dr. R. Oppenheimer (March 1955) in which he (after reading 12 of my articles) called my writings "extraordinarily interesting and important!!" Hence I simply cannot stop bustling about my prospective, supposedly so good a book!

I sincerely hope that my information about Tzolkensky can be interesting for you and I must admit that this information could have been presented in 7 or 10 lines, but not in 70 or 80 lines! Please, forgive my redundancy and my handwriting and accept my respectful regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours V. Nekrasoff.

- 50 -

20. A very interesting review of the first steps in the development of the idea and its mechanical embodiment in the present form of the so called "jet propelled" flying machines can be found in the biography of a Russian, provincial (city of Kaluga) teacher in mathematics, K.E. Tsiolkovsky (1857-1919-1935); as far back as in 1895 he had published a detailed description of his "extra-terrestrial platform" as a transfer station ("satellite" of our days), facilitating the dispatch of his fantastic but strictly scientifically designed jet-propelled ships on their interplanetary voyages; in 1896 he had built the first "wind tunnel" for his own aerodynamical experiments; in 1903 Tsiolkovsky had published a remarkable memoir "The exploration of the expanses of the Universe with jet-propelled instruments"; here he also propounded a new idea of "multi-staged rockets" comprising a series of rockets operating successively and falling away as their fuel is consumed until the last remaining rocket will have the speed indispensable for overcoming the terrestrial force of gravity. (See the journal "Scientific Review" for 1903, in Russian).

Only in 1919 Tsiolkovsky's scientific accomplishments have been officially and publicly recognized and he immediately *became a member of the Academy of Sciences* and started his amazingly productive activities in scientific

- 51 -

researches, designs and constructions of various types of "rockets" with different types of fuel. He became a famous leader and inspirer of the new school of Soviet scientists, research workers and engineers dealing with the greatest velocities and distances, entirely unheard of in the practical aviation of the past;

Thus more than 50 years ago K.E. Tsiolkovsky was a true originator and protagonist of a new science-astronautics or cosmonautics and its applications. It must be remembered that the first "western" words of this science we find in France only in 1913 (R. Esnault-elterie), in the U.S.A in 1914-1919 (Robert Goddard) and in Germany in 1923 (H. Oberth).

When Tsiolkovsky died in 1935, detailed descriptions of his original works have been published in the U.S.S.R and in Germany, but unfortunately at that time the public opinion outside of the U.S.S.R and particularly in the U.S.A was contaminated by the sarcasm and scepticism directed against all "Russian priorities" so insistently and abundantly announced in the Soviet press ... Here was one of a few cases, when a good and true Soviet information turned to be rejected and considered as a news unworthy of any attention for the Western opinion, as a piece of an insidious clever propaganda of the U.S.S.R government ...

Thus Tsiolkovsky's name can be found only in passing remarks mentioned in several books published in England and in the USA in 1936, 1946, 1951 as the name of one among several pioneers of jet-propulsed rockets, but there is not a single reference to Tsiolkovsky's works as far back as 1881, 1895, 1896 and 1903. On the other hand looking through the all scientific and technical literature, pertaining to the present world wide field of the jet-propulsed marvels, we immediately find in it here and there exact reproductions of sketches, tables or formulas, published long ago in Russian works of Tsiolkovsky!

There cannot be any doubt, that in 1957,*) at the centenary (Sept. 17th) of Tsiolkovsky's birth, the whole world will see the realization of his old dreams of 1895! No matter who will succeed in the first interplanetary flying of the jet-propulsed satellite, but the name of Tsiolkovsky should be forever radiated with honor and glory of this great human exploration! Thus a human thought born somewhere in an obscure corner of our Earth gradually assumed a material form and strength as a living, growing up incarnation of the innate human aspiration toward these unlimited expanses of...infinity...of Eternity!.. Nothing simpler, nothing nearer won't do any good for us, earthly, petty human species! And the whole world may see now "a celestial movement", truly started from our Earth!.

* On July 1st of 1957 scientists of fifty five nations will begin the International Geophysical Year (J.G.Y.), lasting 18 months and intended for a grandiose, collective study of our Earth as a whole by means of instruments extending our scientific knowledge far beyond the range of our simple, feeble senses... Among such newest instruments are "the earth satellites" to be launched only by the USA and the USSR for the first time in the human history! V.N.

ER 9-4693

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
--------------	--------------	--------

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP**

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	o/DD/I	<i>ful</i>	JUN 25 1957
2	AD/SI		
3	DD/I		
4			
5			
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

FOR COMMENT. THE DIRECTOR ASKED
THAT THIS BE HANDLED PROMPTLY.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> 26 June 57	